



WESTERN FORESTRY
LEADERSHIP COALITION

CWSF Forest Products Committee 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Work Plan

LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

2025 Leadership Team	2026 Leadership Team
Chair: Dave Bruton (KS) Vice Chair: Kim Slezak (NE) Secretary: Steve Rudolph (CO) Past Chair: Archie Gray (ID) State Forester Advisor: Vacant CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison: Kelsey Delaney	Chair: Kim Slezak (NE) Vice Chair: Steve Rudolph (CO) Secretary: Nick Dolhyj (AZ) Past Chair: Dave Bruton (KS) State Forester Advisor: Jeremy Douse (AK) CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison: Kelsey Delaney

MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

View the mission on the CWSF Forest Products Committee (FPC) webpage at
<https://www.westernforesters.org/about/committees/forest-products-committee>.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Held the 2025 FPC Annual Meeting in November in Flagstaff, Arizona, following the Ponderosa Pine Utilization Summit (Summit). Nine representatives from western states, two Forest Service members, and CWSF staff attended the meeting. Topics discussed included an after-action review of the Summit with the project contractors, initial FPC suggestions and thoughts on advancing identified recommendations from the Summit, a peer-to-peer lightning round on state wood utilization and forest management priorities, and key deliverables for 2026 work planning.
- The Summit Planning Committee, a subset of FPC members, provided extensive support and subject matter expertise to plan and hold the Summit in November 2025. This included working with CWSF staff to develop the request for proposals (RFP) to identify a qualified contractor to co-lead Summit planning, engaging in the RFP review committee to evaluate submitted contractor proposals, attending seven virtual meetings with CWSF staff and the contractors (the Forest Stewards Guild, and Hardigg Consulting, LLC) to provide subject matter expertise to develop the Summit's purpose, goals, and agenda, and providing on-site staff support at the Summit.
- FPC member, Bergen Eskildsen, attended the Business of Forest Products Conference and the 2025 Mapping the Course Conference at the World Forestry Center in Portland, OR, in January 2025. FPC Chair Dave Bruton attended the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance Forest Products Committee meeting on behalf of western states.

- To support and enhance continued engagement in the FPC, the committee moved to virtual meetings every other month. Topics varied by virtual meeting, with round-robin discussions on key subjects of interest, updates from Forest Service partners, and presentations by guest speakers, including the National Wild Turkey Federation.
- To conclude the 2025 calendar year, the Committee will have successfully utilized the remaining funds from the Nebraska FPC grant and will close the grant.
- During the Summit, it was shared that at least one company has utilized the FPC-commissioned Wood Wool Cement Report to consider its future business operations.

2026 WORK PLAN

MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2026

- Annual in-person or virtual meeting, month TBD
- Every other month membership and leadership team virtual meetings.

KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2026

- Identify and leverage opportunities, in coordination with State Foresters, to brief Congress, the Administration, and external partners on the finalized Ponderosa Pine Utilization Summit recommendations, and build support for their adoption through coordinated outreach, education, and policy engagement.
- Identify and prioritize recommendations within the Ponderosa Pine Utilization Summit action plan, once finalized, for FPC members to undertake in 2026, such as developing a marketing plan, hosting in-person training sessions, and exploring opportunities for secondary markets.
- Explore transportation as it relates to barriers for sustaining forest product markets. Share information, existing resources, questions and gaps, and possible solutions that may be replicated across western states.
- Coordinate presentations during FPC virtual meetings to discuss workforce development programs, transportation, and other timely topics of interest. Consider inviting external speakers, such as those from the University of Montana's BBER.
- Compile data and success stories from forest products programs across the West for sharing in a blog post, on the CWSF website, or in other communication products.
- The leadership team will engage in direct outreach to encourage and recruit active participation in the FPC.
- Seek opportunities to strengthen coordination and communication with other committees on joint topics of interest, including the Western Urban & Community Forestry Committee on urban wood utilization.
- Explore developing a west-wide utilization and supply database, similar to the Southern Group of State Foresters' Timber Supply Analysis.

FOR APPROVAL BY CWSF/WFLC MEMBERSHIP

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the Forest Products Committee's 2026 Work Plan.